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■ **ELECTION:** Malcolm Allen crashes Harper photo-op

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

See NYON | page 2

See Inside:



BOB TYMCZYSZYN QMI Agency
Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his wife Laureen ride ATVs while on a recent campaign stop in Wainfleet.

PM targets gun registry, Welland riding

GRANT LAFLECHE
OMI Agency

WAINFLEET — For a moment last Monday morning, it looked like it could have been a showdown at the peanut shack— Welland NDP candidate Malcolm Allen versus Conservative Leader Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Minutes before Harper arrived at Picard's Peanuts east of Ponthill, Allen arrived, orange scarf around his neck and spoiling for a fight.

*If Mr. Harper wants to debate me on the economy,

I welcome it," said Allen, the incumbent in the Welland riding, which includes Pelham. "He's here talking about a long gun registry when what we need is a jobs plan."

Allen's arrival at the popular peanut shop came shortly after Harper made it clear he's painted a target on the riding. During a campaign stop at Triple G Farms in Wainfleet, Harper said he intends to do away with the Canada's long gun registry—which Allen helped preserve in the last parliament—"once and for all."

See HARPER | page 2

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■ HARPER

'They voted for it because they believe in it': PM

FROM PAGE 1

"Don't be under any illusion why the BCP here, or any other Liberal or MLC voted for the registry. They voted for it because they believe in it," Harper said at the farm. "The opposition actually thinks that you can control gun crime in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver by being soft on criminals who use guns."

"But enforcing a long gun registry on duck hunters and farmers in rural Canada—you and I and everyone else knows this is total sense."

But a face-to-face meeting between Harper and Allen never materialized. By the time Harper departed the peanut shop, Allen had already spoken to reporters and left.

While the Conservatives have long wanted to abolish the

registry, saying it does little to control gun crime and is a waste of public money, it has found support in policing circles. Police chiefs, including Niagara Regional Police Chief Wendell Southall, have come out in favour of the registry, saying it's a tool used by police officers every day.

After the campaign event, Harper said police support isn't universal.

"A lot of police officers don't agree with that. We do have in our campaign Julian Fantino, one of Ontario's best-known

(former) police chiefs. He's opposed to the registry, thinks it's a needless waste," Harper said.

"I think most frontline police officers think this is not an effective tool but, as I say, we respect the fact that some disagree."

"What all police officers will agree on, and why they overwhelmingly support our party, is they all agree that actually going after criminals that use guns is far more important."

"And of course, for some reason the other parties that support the gun registry don't think going after criminals is a good idea."

Harper's arrival at the farm with his wife, Laureen, on ATV's backed the second time Harper has come to Welland specifically to attack Allen and his support of the registry. In January, Harper

visited the village to announce a national volunteer award, but took the time to chide Allen for changing votes on the registry.

Allen had originally voted with a Tory private member's bill to kill the registry—a move Allen says was needed to get the bill to committee for study. When the bill came back to the House of Commons for a final vote, Allen and other NDP members voted to save the registry.

Harper's visit added heat to what is shaping up to be a tight race in the Welland riding.

Allen narrowly won his seat in 2008. Recent polling by Nanos shows the current race is tight. They say it shows Conservative candidate Leanna Villalea leading Allen 39.4% to 32.5%.

Former Liberal MP John

Maloney is running again and polled in third place with 27.3%.

After the Welland event, Harper moved on to Picard's Peanuts for a photo-op and some snacks. While photographers inside the shop waited for Harper to arrive, Allen showed up ready to defend his territory.

"This is the third time Mr. Harper has come to this riding," Allen said. "In the 2008 election, he came here to talk about cheap flavoured cigarettes when 800 people lost their jobs at John Deere and said nothing about those job losses. In January, he came here to talk about volunteer awards when what we really needed was help with unemployment."

"Today he is here talking

about a gun registry when Hennigan is laying off 300 people. He doesn't get it."

Allen sidestepped the gun registry issue entirely during a short scrum with reporters to return to the theme of the economy, saying Harper ultimately didn't care about Niagara's economic fate.

"So clearly, the prime minister has come to this riding for the third time and failed all of us," Allen said. "There is a pilot program in this country to extend (employment insurance). We are the second-highest unemployed region in the country. What more do we need to be? The highest, to get the pilot project?"

"I've been asking the House for this for a year and a half and each time the answer is no."

■ NYON

Pre-conference hearing held in council chambers

FROM PAGE 1

"Nyon remains hopeful," Ayres said.

The pre-conference hearing was held in council chambers at Port Colborne City Hall with about 20 residents and lawyers representing Nyon, Niagara Region and city in attendance. Chairing the hearing was OMB vice-chair Jyoti Zaidema.

The hearing was called because of an appeal launched by Nyon when council decided to deny requested city official plan and zoning changes for the

energy park in 2009.

Ayres said a work plan for the site and newly-revised site plan have been presented to the city and region and the comment have been favourable.

"Nyon is attempting to address the city's concerns. We have a number of studies that have been completed and we've received comments on them," the lawyer said.

He added there are other studies that need to be undertaken and ones the city wants peer reviewed. Those studies, he said, will benefit from

input from both the region and city.

"Nyon's intention is to go back to the city council and hold another public meeting before the end of the year."

Ayres proposed holding a second pre-conference hearing later in late September or early October.

Tom Richardson, the city's lawyer, said Port Colborne is in agreement with the later hearing but put forward by Ayres.

Richardson gave a brief history of the project and how things had come to the hearing.

He said the city is the owner of the land, which sits on between

Hwy. 140 and the canal and train tracks and Kleinsmith Rd. The area was formerly known as Site A and had been considered as possible landfill for Port Erie and Port Colborne.

"The city entered into an agreement with Nyon years ago. Prior to the agreement the city started an application for an amendment to regional plan policy, the city's official plan and a zoning by-law change."

The lawyer said Nyon was to provide certain supporting materials, but that they did take place and in 2009 the city denied the application.

Since that time, Richardson

said, echoing Ayres, the two parties have worked together to revise the original proposals and plans. A revised site plan was on display and will be posted on the city's website in the near future.

Michael Kyme, the region's lawyer, said the file on Nyon was closed in 2009 at the city's request.

Since that time, he said, regional planners have met with the city and Nyon and have the revised work plan for the site.

"Our planning staff is reviewing it... a regional policy plan amendment will be required," he said.

Kyme had no objection to a

second hearing.

After taking a quick break, all three lawyers and Zaidema came to a vote of Tuesday, Sept. 27, at 11 a.m. in council chambers for the second hearing.

At that time, residents who wanted to speak at Wednesday's meeting, but missed out because of a last minute time change, will be given the opportunity to become participants.

Welland resident Wendy Bober and Port Colborne resident Gino Ianni used Wednesday's meeting to register as participants in the process.

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portraits



LINDSAY COSTELLO Tribune Photo

Samantha Burgers, who was accompanied on guitar by Katie Airhardt, chooses to sing Old School, by Hedley.



LINDSAY COSTELLO Tribune Photo

Katelyn Lander gives a theatrical performance of I Dreamed a Dream from the musical Les Miserables.



LINDSAY COSTELLO Tribune Photo

Jayk Beck gives an acoustic performance of an original song.

Showtime

Talented Port Colborne High School teens took the stage recently for their shot at the top

prize in the school's Got Talent competition.

See story page 10.



LINDSAY COSTELLO Tribune Photo

Universal Thought singer and guitarist Cody Pyle and his band perform for the crowd.

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ourview

Hidden gems

Wainfleet is moving forward with its recreation master plan, taking a look at what it has to offer residents in terms of parks and recreation.

Surveys have already gone around the township and Fred Galloway, of F.J. Galloway Associates Inc., a management and planning consultant firm hired to oversee the plan has met with focus groups.

While the plan will deal with what Wainfleet residents want, one thing that struck us is what the township has to offer and how many hidden gems there are.

For instance, Marshville Heritage Village, a collection of some of the older buildings in the township, shows what it was like to live in the township in the past. There aren't many places in Ontario where one can see a collection of such buildings and see them for free. The village is open every day of the week, though the actual buildings themselves aren't.

In addition to the heritage village, the Feeder Canal runs right through the whole township. The canal once saw barges hauled through from Dunnville and water from the Grand River fed the Welland Canal.

Though the Feeder is not much more than a large ditch right now, it is something the township could use as an attraction to bring in tourists. Residents at the open house said they could see an area cleared out and maybe a barge being pulled back and forth with someone talking about the history of the area.

We think that's a great idea and one that would work well, especially during the annual Marshville Heritage Festival.

The quarry, on Quarry Rd., is a place one can spend an afternoon fossil hunting, looking for remnants of life hundreds of millions of years old. The Gord Harry Conservation Trail runs right behind the quarry and there is a parking lot for easy access to the quarry and trail.

■ COLUMN

I've been thinking ... about elections

REV. THOMAS P. ARTH
First Evangelical Lutheran Church

So, we're in the midst of an election campaign. I'm generally not all that cynical but politicians on the campaign trail tend to bring out the cynic in me.

We get five or 10 second sound bites on the evening news that are somehow supposed to help us make an informed choice on election day. We see and hear the ads in the media that pick on a candidate's opponent telling me why not to vote for someone but there's little to tell me why I should vote for someone.

Then there are the "issues." More often than not it seems like the politicians are telling us what the issues are or should be. But how do they know what my concerns are? Much of the time I think they target our selfish desires, making promises based on what they think will make me happier, wealthier, more comfortable.

Can you tell how I get cynical when it comes to election campaigns? I'm generally a pretty laid back and patient guy.

But maybe I don't cast my vote based simply on how it affects my wallet. As a Christian I try to take seriously Christ's command to love my neighbour and my responsibility as a steward of God's

creation. For people of faith, the values of compassion and justice ought to inform our considerations. Here are a few issues that we don't hear much about at election time because they're not generally attention grabbers or vote getters.

Poverty

In November an all party committee delivered a report to parliament recommending that there be a Federal Poverty Reduction Plan. In the Bible a number of the prophets criticized the wealthy and powerful for turning a blind eye to the problem of poverty. Will we hear from our candidates what initiatives they think are essential for a federal poverty reduction plan?

Climate Justice

Canada is a signatory to the Kyoto Protocol to reduce carbon emissions in order to slow down the effects of climate change. Our environment is a gift from God and we are called to be caretakers of the gifts we have received from God. Will we hear what steps will be taken to help Canada meet its Kyoto commitments?

Right Relationship with Indigenous Peoples

In 2010, Canada endorsed the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Our First Peoples figure disproportionately among the poorest in our country. Will we hear what our candidates consider the

most important next steps as we live out the commitments made in the UN declaration?

Peace in the Holy Land

I visited the Holy Land in the fall of 2007 and one of the saddest sights I saw was the enormous concrete wall that winds its way between Israel and the West Bank. No single people are entirely responsible for the unrest in that part of the world. My church supports and prays for peace in the Holy Land, with a secure state of Israel and a viable state for Palestinians. Will we hear about what ways Canada should support peace in the Middle East?

International Development Canada has established a goal of providing 0.7% of Gross National Income to Official Development Assistance by 2020. A budget freeze in foreign aid spending, currently at 0.32%, means that by 2014 our foreign aid will sink to 0.28% putting us among the lowest of all official donors (now 18th among 20 donor countries). We are fortunate to be living in one of the richest countries on the planet. We ought to feel an obligation to help the poorest of our neighbours in the world. Will we hear whether our candidates are committed to the 0.7% goal and what steps they would take toward ensuring that Canada takes a leadership role in providing development assistance?

See ARTH | page 16

■ readers' views

GREEN ENERGY?

I have to take issue with Valerie Caster and her letter in the Tribune, making a friendly comparison between small individual solar panels on "little pleasure boats" and the solar "farms" being planned. Also her statement that "Windmills look peaceful" is an unfortunate and misinformed comment that appears to suggest their modern industrial counterparts, industrial wind turbines, are somehow harmless and are actually "green." I think Ms. Caster should take time to do some real research.

I don't have any particular opinion one way or the other regarding small individual wind turbines or solar panel arrays on individual properties, roofs or even little pleasure boats. That's an individual choice for those who can afford them.

I do completely oppose the idea that every taxpayer who chooses not to, or cannot afford such potentially very expensive items, should be forced to

subsidize such individual units that produce any excess and, under the FIT program, receive up to eight times the market price.

The solar panels Ms. Caster years for will be covering acres of otherwise good agricultural land if the solar energy companies have their way. When questioned about this loss of good growing land I have been told by at least two proponents of solar power that we will be able to grow herbs under them!

Herbs as a trade off for cattle and grain harvests suggest we are all going to have to change our diets.

I really do hope that Ms. Caster isn't one of the 15% of the Wainfleet residents who will suffer negative health effects related to these industrial giants. With at least 18 already threatening the township there will be few, if any Wainfleet residents not directly affected by these monstrosities. And those not affected will still have to live with the blade noise, the blade flicker and the likely loss of property value of anything

up to 50%. All the above are factual and reported effects worldwide.

Green they are not. No part of these industrial machines are made by using exclusively green energy or from anything green, in fact without fossil fuels they wouldn't exist and couldn't be built.

And I have yet to hear a single industrial wind turbine enthusiast explain how 800+ tonnes under every single machine can be accepted as "environmentally friendly." Niagara Region want 400 of them in this area, that's 240,000 tonnes of concrete dumped in prime agricultural land.

And whether graceful or eyesores they depend on lubricating oil to keep them moving, thousands of litres of oil high above agricultural land. This is also "environmentally friendly?"

And recently all the industrial wind turbines combined provided just 0.3% of Ontario's demand for one day.

Andrew Watts

Wainfleet

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■ **MUSIC:** Jordan Snider marches to the beat of his own drummer

Mohawk grad and all that jazz



George Duma
BY GEORGE

Jordan Snider is an amazing young man. He is — and has been since childhood — a kind, gentle, affectionate soul with a huge heart who is always aware of the feelings of those around him. He just wants everybody to be happy. It seems like it's one of his missions in life. I'll tell you what he's like. When he was in his teens, I'd see him sometimes uptown at the 7-11 hanging out with some of his friends. At a time in life when so many young

men just need to feel so cool in front of their peers, he would come running up to me whenever he saw me with a big hug and kiss on the cheek.

I absolutely adore Barry and Charlene's boy. The fact he's my nephew is purely coincidental.

Jordan is also one hell of a musician.

Since taking on the drums in Grade 10, he has thrown himself so completely into the world of percussion. And it shows. To say he's good completely understates the point. When Jordan discovered the drums in his mid-teens, he also discovered his calling in life. This is what he was meant to do. This is his niche.

Following high school,

Jordan went to Mohawk College to take the three-year music program, which emphasizes jazz. He has also studied with renowned jazz drummer extraordinaire Mark Rogers, who teaches out of his beautiful Niagara Falls home. The time with Mark did Jordan a world of good at Mohawk.

I'm telling you all this because Jordan graduates this year from the Mohawk program. But before the Mohawk music faculty members release their students to the big, wide world, the students must first put together a concert and stage it in the college's McIntyre Theatre. Think musical thesis, if you will.

See DUMA | page 6



Supplied photo
Emily Kemp and Jordan Snider share the stage for the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic, *Oh What a Beautiful Morning*. The number was part of Jordan's graduation concert at Mohawk College. It was a special moment during a special evening.

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DUMA

It's hard to tell when Jordan is pumped; he always is

FROM PAGE 5

Well, Jordan's was last week and I've had April 7 marked on my calendar since I found out about it in the fall.

A busload of friends and family made the trek from Port last Thursday to go see the show. As I now work in Hamilton, I simply met them

all there after work.

I got there a bit earlier than the bus crowd and it gave me an opportunity for a quick visit with the star of the evening.

After I got my customary hug and kiss on the cheek — he has

to bend over at the waist now to hug me and I'm 6'1" — I knew he still had much to do to set up so I wanted to get out of his way.

"I am so pumped for this," he told me as we were walking

away from each other. It's hard to tell when Jordan is pumped for something because he is always just so pumped about life.

As I read the program for the evening, the anticipation began to rise.

I'm always worried that when I look forward to something so much for so long, it's inevitable to feel a bit of a letdown when the actual event arrives. Nothing can possibly live up to those kinds of expectations.

Of course, that's not necessarily true.

As the Port gang arrived and

we all took our seats, the band made its way on stage, with Jordan the last to come out to a huge ovation.

From the opening note of Theodanis Mark's Evidence, I knew we were all in for something special here.

I quickly realized these musicians play with a tightness and an elan that belies their age.

Close your eyes and you'd swear it was Monk's band onstage 50 years ago rather than a group of young twentysomethings in 2011.

See JORDAN | page 7




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■ JORDAN

Oh What a Beautiful Morning with a twist

FROM PAGE A6

After Evidence, the band moved into One Note Sambo, an Antonio Carlos Jobim tune before performing Herbie Hancock's hauntingly beautiful Dolphin Dance, which featured some phenomenal scintillating by Carolyn Czedilo, a jazz vocal student in the Mohawk program.

From there, the band went into Victor Young's Stella by Starlight before Jordan and his lovely lady, Emily Kemp, took the stage alone.

Emily graduated as a jazz vocalist from Melhawk in 2010. She joined her guy for this night to sing the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic, Oh What a Beautiful Morning. But with a twist.

Emily basically did the number a capella with Jordan providing a percussion background to her

incredibly beautiful, strong voice.

This was, for me, a highlight of the show.

I should mention that earlier this school year, Jordan and a group of his fellow students put together a jazz-funk ensemble and named it The Altoebays. Apart from Jordan on percussion, the band features Ryan Cassidy on tenor sax and flute, Chris Bruder on keyboards, Scott McIntosh on guitar, and Tommy Altoelli on stand-up and electric bass. Jordan told the audience the band was named after Tommy.

The guys, for the most part, were his backing band on this night, except for Evidence.

After a sweet, tender moment between Jordan and Emily at the end of their duet, The Altoebays arrived

onstage to do two original numbers, Psycho Cat and AGD. Astonishing is the first word that came to mind as I sat, watched and listened to this band crank out these pieces.

I can honestly say The Altoebays have a solid future ahead of them. They plan to keep the band together and, in fact, are going into the studio to record an album this summer. Keep your eyes and ears open for these musicians. One day, you'll be able to say, "Hey, that's Jordan from Port."

George Dumas is a resident of Port Colborne and has spent 30 years in the newspaper business. He welcomes comments and column suggestions and can be reached at gdumas@agee.ca

Are You Feeling the Pain?

Are you feeling the pain from stiff knees, sore finger joints or an aching back? These are just a few of the ailments we seem to suffer as we age. As a matter of fact, by the time we turn 45 years old, more than half of us will suffer the aches and pains of joint problems caused by aging, wear and tear, injury, overuse or arthritis.

Joint stiffness often limits your mobility and makes it difficult to perform many daily functions – because it's too painful. Yet, in spite of the pain and the problems caused by aching joints, many people are reluctant to take prescription drugs because of the side effects.

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ANTIBIOTICS USE VS. MISUSE

One of the greatest breakthroughs in medicine was the discovery of antibiotics. Antibiotics have saved more lives than any treatment or other type of medication to date. When used properly antibiotics can heal infectious ailments, who previous to their discovery, would never have been treated. However, often antibiotics are used inappropriately and indiscriminately. This leads to a number of problems.

The first of these is antibiotic resistance. The bacteria we are trying to eliminate get "smart." A mutation occurs in the bacteria and they "develop" defenses against the antibiotics. Picture it like a battle front in your body. You get infected with a bacteria and then you send an "army" of antibiotics against the bacteria. If used properly you eliminate all of the bacteria. However, sometimes not all of the bacteria are eliminated and now that they have been exposed to that type of antibiotic they develop a defense mechanism against it. This "smart" bacteria can be passed on to another individual or remain in your system. The bacteria can grow and next time you try to treat the bacteria the antibiotic is no longer effective. This leaves doctors with fewer antibiotics to treat the same infection. Eventually "Super Bugs" are created which can't be treated with the usual antibiotics and the individual can develop an untreatable infection that may be life threatening.

The second problem with overuse of antibiotics are adverse drug reactions. In one in five emergency room visits for adverse drug events are due to antibiotics. Antibiotics can also cause side effects such as diarrhea and rash. As well, patients can sometimes develop C. Difficile diarrhea. This is an extremely painful diarrhea which can result in hospitalization. Some antibiotics can interfere with patient's medication like warfarin and cause the patients INR to fluctuate. They can affect patient's blood sugar if they have diabetes, and can cause problems for elderly patients if they aren't dosed properly for aging kidneys.

Sometimes it's difficult to know when an antibiotic should be used, however, statistics show they are not needed for most upper respiratory infections. The common cold and influenza do not respond to antibiotics. Less than 10% of acute bronchitis cases are caused by bacteria. Most middle ear infections also resolve without antibiotics. Sore throats are usually caused by a virus. Only 15% to 30% of sore throats in children are caused by bacteria and only 10% of cases are strep throat in adults. Also, almost all cases of acute bacterial sinusitis resolve without antibiotics.

If your family or emergency physician are reluctant to prescribe an antibiotic it is because they suspect a viral infection that is usually self limiting. Also it is best to not save antibiotics from dental visits or previous infections. Firstly, they expire and become less effective over time. Secondly, what is good for one type of infection is not necessarily what is needed for a different type of infection. Different bacteria are susceptible to different types of antibiotics. A chest infection requires a different agent from a urinary tract infection. If you are using the wrong type of antibiotic you are delaying appropriate treatment and putting yourself at risk for resistance and side effects. Sometimes it is best for the physician to order blood work or urine cultures to determine the type of antibiotic needed. This allows them to choose the agent that will best treat your infection.

All this being said there are definite times when antibiotics are needed and patients shouldn't hesitate to be seen by a physician. Often we see patients with skin infections caused by bug bites where they have delayed being treated because they didn't realize they needed an antibiotic.

If you are unsure whether an antibiotic is necessary contact a physician, or your pharmacist. Follow the directions on your medication and finish all of it is directed. There is definitely a need for antibiotics but overuse is going to lead to fewer and fewer treatment options. This will be less of a problem if patients and health care practitioners work together to make good decisions about their medication.

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HANDGUN SEIZED

PORT COLBORNE—A 22-year-old man has been arrested after police were alerted to a man driving around Port Colborne last week brandishing a powerful handgun. A Niagara Regional Police officer observed the suspect vehicle on Clarence St. Upon stopping the vehicle, the male passenger was taken into custody. Upon searching the driver, police found a loaded .357-calibre handgun. Tyler Fenton is facing nine criminal charges, which police did not disclose. As a result of a bail hearing, Fenton remains in custody, pending a second

court appearance Tuesday, April 19.

PELHAM BACKS RESOLUTION

PELHAM—Town council endorsed a resolution from the Township of Wainfleet asking the province to provide assurance about windmill construction.

It wants the government to ensure there will be no negative financial impacts on residents and businesses as a result of industrial wind turbine construction. The Wainfleet resolution also requests a moratorium on new industrial wind turbines until a third party public science-based study is conducted.

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■ **INPUT:** Residents talk about strengths of township

Helping shape future of recreation

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET—The township has many strengths when it comes to recreation activities and facilities, but it also faces challenges.

Residents outlined those strengths and challenges, and looked toward the future, during a public open house on Wainfleet's recreation master plan last week in the community room at the main fire hall.

Fred Galloway, of F.J. Galloway Associates Inc., a management and planning consultant firm hired to oversee the recreation master plan, gave an overall view of the work to be carried out over the next few months. He then split the room into two groups.

"I have three questions I want to pose ... and the information will be put together with the surveys we sent out," he told the 60 or so resi-

dents who came to the meeting, including a strong youth contingent.

"What are you happy with and what is working ... what does everyone think is strong here? What are the issues, concerns, gaps and things that need to be addressed?"

Galloway also asked people to look 10 years into the township's future, to see what the needs would be then and how the community might change. The two groups talked for about a half-hour before Galloway brought everyone back together.

Wainfleet's strengths include a lot of land that can be used for recreation, great soccer fields, a soccer organization that helps students get their volunteer hours, great volunteer groups, good parks for children, family-oriented, a safe community, respectful children, good programs for seniors and youth, skydiving,

great beaches and good church groups.

Other strengths include an abundance of natural resources, a lot of wildlife, the Wainfleet Bog, Marshville Heritage Village and the Feeder Cans—but they need better promotion.

Some of the challenges facing Wainfleet residents when it came to recreation included: a lack of transportation, no public washrooms at beaches, lack of parking for beach areas, limited activities for youth, no one leading parks and recreation, no one searching out grants for recreation, not enough walking trails, no links to trail systems, no lifeguards on beaches and aging facilities.

The youth contingent suggested turning part of the old landfill into a motocross track and said while a skate park would be good, with the possibility of attracting

youth from Port Colborne and Dunnville, finding a location for it might be hard and costly.

Over the next 10 years, the two groups said, there will need to be more activities for youth and seniors and aging facilities will be needed to be replaced. Transportation would also be helpful to get people around to the various areas.

"We're going to take all this information and marry it the surveys we've sent out and focus groups we've met with," said Galloway.

He said input provided will give his company a foundation on which to build plans and recommendations for recreation. "We'll come up with policy and specific recommendations in regard to services and bring it all together when working with the steering committee."

The consultant expected



DAVE JOHNSON Tribune Staff

Fred Galloway, of F.J. Galloway Associates Inc., a management and planning consultant firm hired to carry out the recreation master plan in Wainfleet, stands in front of a board showing some of the township's strengths.

to have a report for council by July, ready by mid-June and the whole process wrapped up

djohnson@wellandtribune.ca



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■ SHOW

Port High's got talent; second year for event

LINDSAY COSTELLO
For InPort News

PORT COLBORNE—Talented Port Colborne High School teens took the stage for their shot at the top prize.

The school held its Port High's Got Talent competition on last week to show-

case the students' artistic abilities and to entertain fellow Blue Bears.

Run by the student council, this is the second year of the event. Preparation began in December and auditions were held in February, when a panel of staff members saw 21 groups vying for a spot in

the competition.

The field was narrowed down to the nine acts that shared the spotlight Friday in the school's gymnasium. James Gillespie, the audio/visual representative for the student council, said he was expecting to see a wider variety of talent during auditions,

but most hopefuls either sang, danced or acted.

He said the turnout for auditions was a lot better this year than it was last year, adding he hopes the event will continue in years to come.

"I think people really like this event and are excited about it."

Haley Morrison, who took first place in the student-voted competition, received a \$60 gift certificate to The Pen Centre and will have her name on a plaque that will hang in the school's foyer.

Universal Thought, a band comprising Cody Pyle, Colin Belyea and

Cameron Schooley, took second place and Dominic Pletti, Kyle Edwards and Riley Beaudin's vocal and instrumental performance earned third place.

Lindsay Costello is a Niagara College journalism student on a work placement at InPort.



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■ **MEETING:** Residents hear about drains

Drainage system navigated in Wainfleet

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET— Wainfleet Township's nearby flat 21,500 hectares of land is drained by 250 km of municipal drains,

which are a mix of open ditches and closed-tile systems.

Harold Kelly, the township's drainage superintendent, told a crowd of nearly 100 people gathered for a public meeting on the subject last week all but

16 km of those drains carry water from farmers' fields and residential properties into the Welland River. Water that doesn't go into the river is drained into Lake Erie.

Kelly and operations director Greg Wulsman both spoke about drainage during the open house.

"In 1978 the drainage program was established here," said Kelly, who is also drainage superintendent of Pelham

and West Lincoln under a sharing agreement between the three municipalities.

"We have a seven-to-10-year cleanup program and have a new excavator for drainage maintenance," he said.

Keeping the drains clean

helps keep land in the township from being flooded and eroded.

Wulsman said roadside ditches in the township were not meant to be municipal drains and that properties aren't meant to be drained by them.

"The ditches are for the drainage of roads, to help maintain their structural integrity,"

Wulsman said ditches are designed to take the water from the road when it's raining or when snow starts to melt. Municipal drains, in comparison, are engineered to drain large amounts of water, while ditches are intended to drain the 500 km of roads in Wainfleet.

See **DRAINAGE** | page 13



VISIONING WORKSHOP

East Waterfront Community Improvement Plan

The City of Port Colborne is soliciting your input into the proposed East Waterfront Community Improvement Plan for lands located on the east side of the Welland Canal.

The Public Visioning Workshop will be held on:

Date:

Thursday April 28, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Address:

**Council Chambers, City Hall
66 Charlotte Street, City of Port Colborne**

This Workshop is not a legislated Public Meeting under the Planning Act.

The visioning workshop will be structured as follows:

6:00 – 6:45 – Opening Remarks and Waterfront Opportunities Presentation

6:45 – 7:45 – Roundtable Discussion towards a Vision

7:45 – 8:30 – Discussion, Wrap-up and Next Steps

Additional information on the East Waterfront Community Improvement Plan is available on the City's

website at www.portcolborne.ca.

We invite you to participate in this event and welcome your input.

For more information, please contact:

**Lindsay Richardson,
Community/Policy Planner
Ph: 905-835-2901 ex 129**

Email: lindsayrichardson@portcolborne.ca

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Ashley Grigg
City Clerk

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■ DRAINAGE

Ditches used to drain properties

FROM PAGE 12

One resident questioned whether it wouldn't make sense to integrate ditches into the municipal drainage system.

"In actual fact there are a lot of ditches that are used to drain properties, but that's not their intended use," Wulsman said.

Kelly said anyone with the catchment area of a watershed that benefits from a municipal drain taking water from their land can be assessed a fee for that benefit.

"We have drain profiles and use drainage reports for maintenance and billing."

He said people whose property is zoned agricultural can apply to the province for a grant that will cover one-third of the cost of any work done.

Fees for drainage work are not covered under property taxes, he said, adding it's a user-pay system.

In some cases, one piece of property could benefit from up to three or four drains in their area and be assessed on all of the drains.

When it comes to drains, the township is governed, in some cases, by the provincial Ministry of Natural Resources, federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Niagara Peninsula Conservation

Authority under endangered species and species at risk acts.

Kelly said those acts limit what can be done to some drains. In one instance, the township hasn't been allowed to work on a drain because fish use it.

Drains to be worked on this year include Cosby Drain, Perry Road Drain, Bridgewater Extension, Consolidated South Wainfleet Drains Nos. 13 and 25 and Little Forks Drain. Kelly said if there is time, the township hopes to get to Consolidated South Wainfleet Drains Nos. 3 and 4 as well.

During a question and answer period, one resident said when the Welland River backs up, his property gets flooded.

Kelly said the Welland River flows underneath the old and new Welland Canal via six siphons in Welland and that the township is working with various agencies, including Ontario Power Generation, on the issue. He said two of the six siphons are jammed with debris now.

Mayor April Jeffs told residents she's been speaking with Welland Mayor Barry Sharpe about the issue of the siphons and that it's been brought up with the conservation authority. She hoped to have more news on the issue later this month.

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■ **BIG PIPE:** 'It died without a whimper'

Final decision expected on big pipe by region

ALLAN BENNER
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET— Wainfleet Mayor April Jeffs was a little sur-

prised by how quietly Niagara Region's public works committee voted to scrap its controversial plan to extend municipal water and sewer services to the

township's lakeshore.

At a public works committee meeting last week, regional councillors voted to abandon plans for the so-called Big Pipe

that would have run from Port Colborne to Wainfleet to supply water and sewer services.

"I scanned the room, and it was unanimous," Jeffs said,

recalling the support the motion had during the meeting.

She said the motion was approved so quickly and quietly "it almost makes me a little nervous."

But she suspects the \$99-to-\$118-million cost of building the pipeline might have had something to do with the committee's decision.

"I think that's why it died without a whimper," she said.

The motion to scrap the pipe plan was to receive final consideration at Thursday's full regional council meeting.

Jeffs said the township is hoping the Region will support its alternative efforts to resolve problems—identifying leaking septic systems blamed for contaminating drinking water, and enforcing the repair or replace-

ment of those septic systems.

Jeffs said region officials have agreed to help provide "in-kind" assistance to the township in getting "the program that we want to implement up and running."

"They've agreed to help us write the bylaws and all that kind of stuff."

Jeffs said inspections and enforcement of septic systems will be provided by Wainfleet for the long run. Public works commissioner Ken Brothers said much work needs to be done, including the development of supporting bylaws by the township, to implement an "effective, efficient and comprehensive first and repair program" for septic systems in Wainfleet.

See PIPE | page 15

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PIPE

Boil water advisory still in place

FROM PAGE 14

"It's really a Plan B, if you will." Ultimately, he said it will be the township's program—not the Region's.

Niagara's environmental health director Bjorn Christensen said Windfield's lakeshore problems are a result of "the population density in the area and the number of septic tanks and tile beds that have been there for many, many years, and aren't working in conformity with standards."

The public health department issued a boiled water advisory for the lakeshore area five years ago, and it remains in effect today.

■ **RELAY FOR LIFE:** Event being hosted at end of May

Christensen said it will remain in effect for the foreseeable future, until there's a solution there that "cleans up the ground water, whether that's the Big Pipe or whatever other options are going to be looked at."

The pipe line was the preferred solution from public health's perspective. While installing that pipe "is a very expensive proposition,"



April Jeffs

Christensen said it's going to be "expensive regardless of what alternatives are being looked at."

Brothers added: "There's not a cheap fix here."

Considering the size of some of the properties in the area, Christensen said there's "no question that there are some properties out there that wouldn't be able to put a system on site" that will conform with building codes.

"It's going to take a serious hard look to see in fact what can be done, if that's the approach that's being taken," he added.

Brothers, however, was a little more confident about the effectiveness of Plan B.

"If it's done in a comprehensive and effective manner, we should be able to address failed septic tank systems in the township," he said.

Once the leaking septic systems are identified and repaired, Brothers said there will be hope for a "speedy recovery of the groundwater aquifer if there's no more infiltration or leaking or seepage into the groundwater system."

Jeffs said she plans to meet next week to discuss alternatives with Dr. Robin Williams, Niagara's medical officer of health.

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SAM CINO
For InPort News

PORT COLBORNE—Cancer affects most people in some way throughout their lives, and Lakeshore Catholic High School plans to help stop it.

The school held a combination prayer service-ppp relay in support of Relay for Life, which is a hosting at the end of May.

Megan Bodis, along with some fellow teachers, student volunteers and the school's dance team, put on a recent show to get the school thinking about the event.

"This is a fun, yet touching

event. It can be quite moving," she said.

Teams of 10 will raise funds prior to the relay and during the run one member must be running or walking on the track at all times.

"It gives us a chance to fight back," Bodis said.

Kerry Garvey, who is chairing the fundraising event on behalf of Lakeshore students, said she takes part in the event because relay participants can make a difference in someone's life.

"I love how we can do that as students."

Another student, Rudder Zhang, had his Justin

Bieberesque hair shaved in front of his fellow students. Prior to the shaving, buckets were passed around the auditorium to collect donations. A few young ladies even objected to the inevitable loss of his locks.

More than 5300 has been raised so far.

"I decided to shave my head to support my friends and the current and future generations to come," Zhang said. "Hopefully, later when I walk down the hallways people will go 'hey, there's

shudder the bald guy' and they'll donate money to the cause."

Relay for Life will be held at Lakeshore on Friday, May 27, from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m., with breakfast being served when the relay ends. A cancer survivors "victory lap" will occur as the first part of the run. Community members looking to register can e-mail LCRelayforlifegmail.com.

Sam Cino is a Niagara College journalism student on a work placement with InPort.

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■ ARTH

Human trafficking a global problem that needs to be addressed

FROM PAGE 4

Nuclear Disarmament
Most of us don't think this is even an issue. We might wonder why nuclear arms even exist. In 2010 the leaders of 23 churches wrote to the prime minister, encouraging the government of Canada to give renewed

and urgent attention to nuclear disarmament. Will we hear what role Canada could take in promoting a world without nuclear weapons?

Human Trafficking
This is a global problem fuelled by demand for prostitution and pornography and by factors of poverty and

abuse. Our most vulnerable neighbours need us to speak up and stand up for them. Will we hear what the government of Canada can do to reduce human trafficking?

Restorative Justice
When a crime happens there has to be more than just punishment. Victims,

offenders, families, and the public are all in need of healing. Simply locking someone up does not meet these needs. We ought to be concerned not only with the length of prison terms but also with the character of the person that will one day leave prison. Will we hear from our

candidates the ways that our government can invest resources to promote safer communities and help prisoners become productive citizens again? Will we hear about any of these things during this election campaign? Or will we just hear one candidate bashing another? These

issues may not be high on many people's list of priorities but if we want to make our country and our world a better place then we need to pay attention to these issues. These are issues of morality. These are issues of compassion. These are issues of justice. What will we hear?



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